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March 10, 1981

Mr. Diego Asencio
Assistant Secretary
for Consular Affairs
State Department
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Asencio:

Since our meeting with you on February 18, 1981 there seems to have been little taking place to find John that has not been inspired by the family. During our meeting you suggested that both sides be completely open and honest from that point forward. In keeping with that I must say that the State Department seems to have become bogged down in whatever internal machinery it is that causes several days or weeks to pass to make a phone call or send a letter.

The entire family was, and is, very grateful to you and all those concerned at the State Department for meeting with us and discussing John's case. We had a feeling, for the first time since his disappearance, that our government was actively involved in this bizarre drama. Yet we now feel as though the meeting may have been an attempt to mollify us in the hopes that we would fade into obscurity with John.

This, Mr. Asencio, is not going to happen. To the last member of my family we are committed to determining what has happened to John. We desire very much to accomplish this through, and with the help of the United States Government. We will, however, do anything necessary to bring this horrible ordeal to a close. I believe you understand our feelings and sincerely feel that you desire to help us. It is for this reason that I must put several questions to you that remain unanswered.

First, I would like to know the results of the "highly structured meeting" which took place after our meeting. Although Mr. McCoy advised us about the meeting we have no idea who was in attendance, what was discussed, were policy decisions made concerning John's case and was there an overall plan to be followed to determine John's whereabouts. If we are truly to be "open and honest" with each other these answers should have been provided long ago. I should not have to make a request which only serves to lessen the faith I have in the State Department's investigation.

Second, the subject of Colonel Majano remains a mystery both as to the timing of his arrest in relation to our meeting and as to the reluctance of the State Department to question him on the whereabouts of John. There exists a sufficient amount of circumstantial evidence to indicate that questioning Colonel Majano

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would not only be appropriate but mandatory. If there is nothing to come of such an interview, so be it; but to leave the questions unasked in certainly not conducive to a well planned and coordinated investigation. I do not accept the theory that the government in El Salvador would become suspicious at such an inquiry. There exists a letter from an El Salvadoran businessman indicating that John had some contact with the Majano family. How better to check this story than to ask a family member. This local government's very existence depends on the military aid and advisors that we have been providing to it. I am sure that between the CIA and the FBI we have some very capable individuals who could manufacture a reason, if one is indeed required, to simply ask the Colonel if he knows of John Sullivan.

Third, we are still anxious to have a public statement issued by the United States Government concerning the investigation into John Sullivan's disappearance. During our meeting you indicated that you would give some thought to issuing some type of statement. To make our position clearer I am referring to the type of official protest such as that sent to Columbia following the murder of Mr. Chester Bitterman. Surely terrorism in Columbia is no different than terrorism in El Salvador.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Very truly yours,

John J. Sullivan Sr.

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